

CHARMAINE TAVARES
MAYOR



NEAL A. BAL
Interim Chief

COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
(808) 270-7561
FAX (808) 270-7919
March 11, 2008

The Honorable Cindy Evans, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 425
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Evans:

Subject: S.B. 2720 S.D. 2 Relating to the State Fire Council

I am Neal A. Bal, Fire Chief of the County of Maui, Department of Fire & Public Safety and a member of the State Fire Council (SFC). I ask for your support of S.B. 2720, S.D. 2, which creates two administrative positions for the SFC to enable it to meet its statutory responsibilities under Chapter 132 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and to identify the funding source for said positions.

The SFC was created in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's Office, which was a fully-funded state agency. The SFC staff currently consists of only one part-time person funded by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Under the present organization, the SFC has had difficulty in amending the state fire code, pursuing and administering federal grants, and coordinating statewide training, data collection, and other council duties because such work must be performed by county fire department personnel, thus depriving the county fire departments of the services of its members.

This bill would greatly increase the productivity of the SFC and benefit fire departments statewide.

Our Department and the SFC request your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 2720, S.D. 2.

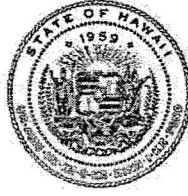
Should you have any questions, please call SFC Legislative Liaison Lloyd Rogers at 723-7171.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neal A. Bal".

NEAL A. BAL
Fire Chief

NAB:rgkm



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
State Fire Council
830 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 11, 2008

The Honorable Cindy Evans, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 425
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Evans:

Subject: S.B. 2720, S.D. 2 Relating to the State Fire Council

I am Kenneth G. Silva, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support S.B. 2720, S.D. 2, which creates two administrative positions for the SFC to enable it to meet its statutory responsibilities under Chapter 132 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and to identify the funding source for said positions.

The SFC was created in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's Office, which was a fully-funded state agency. The SFC staff currently consists of only one part-time person funded by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Under the present organization, the SFC has had difficulty in amending the state fire code; pursuing and administering federal grants; and coordinating statewide training, data collection, and other council duties because such work must be performed by county fire department personnel, thus depriving the county fire departments of the services of its members.

This bill would greatly increase the productivity of the SFC and benefit fire departments statewide.

The SFC and the HFD request your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 2720, S.D. 2.

Should you have any questions, please call SFC Legislative Liaison Lloyd Rogers at 723-7171.

Sincerely,

KENNETH G. SILVA
Chair

KGS/LR:cn



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March 13, 2008

Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

By: Richard C. Botti, President, or Lauren Zirbel, Government Relations

Re: SB 2720, SD2 RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL

Chairs & Committee Members:

We support SB 2720, SD2 as long overdue.

The Fire Council serves an important purpose in government as an important link between all four County Fire Chiefs.

The DLIR was chosen by the Legislature as the default home for the Fire Council. Because it does not directly relate to the purposes of the DLIR they have not felt the need to fund the State Fire Council for its duties. This measure effectively accomplishes that purpose.